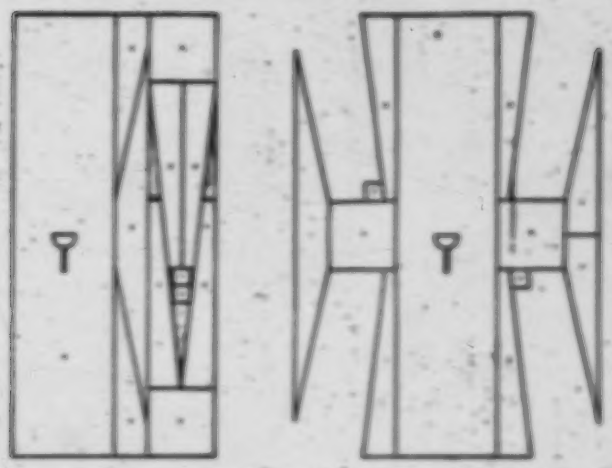

Fig. 46. Demonstration of how a certain length of material is cut out to form the different parts of a woman's kirtle. Scale 1:30.

a. the body; b. the two sleeves; c. the two funnel-shaped cloth tubes of three seams together from two pieces); d. the four side gores; e. the two rectangular gores in the armpits (Cf. fig. 55).

The production of feminine garments. The materials for all women's dresses are machine-made and imported[37] from abroad for sale in the city of the larger towns. (Samples of brocade, E. 2552a-c). The finished garments like jackets and caftans are made by bazar tailors with Singer sewing machines that are found in both town and village[38]. Certain main measurements are taken of the customer, height and shoulder breadth. This is done with a measuring rod, gaz, (E. 2772). This is a round stick, 0.330 m. long, divided into English inches by circular notches, and consists of two sections, bound together by a cord, that can be inserted into each other. I did not witness the cutting-out of a caftan or a jacket.

Sleeveless jackets, trousers, under-kirtle and kirtle are made by hand or on a sewing machine by women at home. Except in the case of sleeveless jackets, nothing is wasted when cutting out these garments. All the parts of which the garments consist are limited by straight lines and utilize most expensively the available material (see diagram). Material is purchased in definite measurements, well-known to the bazar tailors. When cutting-out the kirtle the person's height is measured with the material. The smaller measurements are marked on the material by taking the distance between the thumb and little finger several times and the distance from the nose to the finger tips with an outstretched arm (1 yard). Fellowjil[39] writes of the Lurs measuring by means of the hand, just as Danes at one time used the end joint of the thumb and the length of the foot.